

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 16-19 and 21-34 are pending in the captioned application. Claims 16 and 21 are withdrawn from consideration while claims 17-19 and 22-34 stand rejected. Applicants hereby amend claims 17, 26 and 27 and cancel claims 24 and 25. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the amendments and the following arguments.

Claims 17-19 and 22-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner states that it is unclear which atom or substituent in the formula is attached to the support material. The Examiner recommends amending the claims to resolve the uncertainty. In response, Applicants have amended claim 17 to specify that the ligands are coupled to the substrate through group R4. Applicants submit that the amendment is fairly based on the specification, and do not introduce new matter (see e.g., page 13, lines 1-12).

Claims 17-19, 22-25, 28-30 and 33-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the written description requirement. Specifically, the Examiner is of the opinion that these claims lack written description, because Applicants state on page 11, third paragraph: "As mentioned above, in formula (I), R₂ is a phenyl group, which may be substituted with one or two halogens, such as F, Cl, Br or I". Applicants respectfully disagree.

In response, Applicants submit that the specification provides additional description for substituents of R₂. Specifically, the specification describes: “Alternatively, or additionally, the R₂ phenyl group is substituted with one or more oxygen-comprising groups.” (See e.g., page 11, fourth paragraph). Further, the specification also describes: “In a specific embodiment, R₂ is substituted in the para and/or meta position with a group defined as –O-R₅, wherein R₅ is CH₃ or CH₂CH₃, and preferably CH₃.” (See e.g., page 11, fifth paragraph). Applicants respectfully submit that the 35 USC 112, first paragraph rejection of claims for lack of written description can not be sustained and should be withdrawn.

Claims 17-19 and 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner recommends amending the claims to limit coupling of support via R₃ or R₄ substituents to overcome this rejection. In response, the claims have been amended to limit coupling of the ligands to the support through the group R₄. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot.


Applicants respectfully assert that the claims are in allowable form and earnestly solicit the allowance of the claims.

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Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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